(c) whether a proposal for 425 awards has been sent to Government instead of 172 awards fixed by the State Government; and

(d) if so, by when the State Government would be given consent accordingly?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Under the scheme of Upgradation of Merit a total number of 4x370=1480 awards have been distributed among all the concerned States on the basis of the tribal population of the respective States. In accordance with this, a total of 172 awards have been allocated of the State Government to Madhya Pradesh.

(c) and (d) No proposal for 425 awards has been received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. A Proposal for 552 awards was sent by the State Government in March, 2002. On the basis of population, however, only 172 awards could be sanctioned. There is no proposal to increase the number of awards.

Scheme for tackling problems of tribals in the country

2552. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to tackle the problem of increasing tribals in the different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) There is no problem of increasing tribals in the country and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has, therefore, not formulated any specific scheme. Various social sector and infrastructure development programmes and schemes are, however, being implemented by different sectoral Ministries, which also benefit tribal areas and people. In addition to these, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs implemented several Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Programmes specifically for the socio-economic development of the tribal people in the country.